Mr. S. C. Mallaiya.—

Are the Government aware that remissions were not granted in all deserving cases?

General Secretary to Government.—

No.

Mr. S. C. Mallaiya.—

Has it come to the notice of Government that for the recovery of the amounts due this year, coercive measures are already being taken by the department?

General Secretary to Government.—

We will enquire into the cases if they are brought to notice.

Mr. S. C. Mallaiya.—

Have not the raiyats brought this to the notice of the Government by means of petitions?

General Secretary to Government.—

None that I can recollect just now.

Mr. S. C. Mallaiya.—

Will the Government take what action is possible in the matter?

General Secretary to Government.—

We shall consider the suggestion.

Mr. Mir Mahomed Sahib.—

Why not Government issue orders that coercive measures should be reduced and that greater sympathy should be shown by local officers?

General Secretary to Government.—

Orders on that point have already been issued.

Mr. U. Veerabasappa (Shikarpur Taluk).—

Q.—37. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) Whether the rates for renewal of gun licences were revised on the recommendation of any committee or by Government themselves?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to reduce the fee to its original rate in view of the poor condition of the raiyats in these hard days?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

A.—37. (*a*) By the Government themselves.

(*b*) It is not proposed to reduce the fee. The fee was raised in respect of some classes of arms in order to check unauthorised destruction of game and to discourage people from seeking to possess fire arms for which they have no legitimate use.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

Are there no rules for the grant of gun licences free of fees for the protection of crops and cattle?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

Please see the rules.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

If there are instances wherein such rules have not been followed, will the Government see that they are enforced?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

Such cases may be brought to the notice of Government

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

What is the expenditure to Government for the grant of a licence?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

I do not know what you mean. The licence fee is not meant to cover the expenditure incurred by Government in granting licences.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

Formerly the fee had been fixed at four annas. On what basis was that amount fixed?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

I cannot say.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

What is the reason for levying four annas in one case and Rs. 2-8-0 in another?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

You know the reason yourself. Revolvers are easily concealed whereas guns cannot be.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

What is the need for so many distinctions even as between fire arms?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

The object is to discourage the use of revolvers and to ensure that none but reliable persons own them.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

Do the Government think that the extent of reliability of a person can be gauged by the amount of fees paid by him?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

Partly, yes. That is one of the ways in which the object referred to can be secured. But all those that pay the stipulated fee are not granted licences as a matter of course.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

Is it not a mistake to levy different rates for different kinds of fire arms?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

No.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

In view of the present economic depression, will the Government reduce the rates to the old level?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

As stated in the last Dasara Session, it is not possible to reduce the rates.

Mr. Bagamāne Deva Gowda.—

Were the rates raised after consulting public opinion?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

The question does not arise.

Mr. K. M. Krishnappa Gowda.—

It has been stated in the reply furnished that the fee has been raised with a view to check unauthorised destruction of game. Is it not necessary to prevent wild animals from damaging the crops of the raiyats?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

Yes.

Mr. K. M. Krishnappa Gowda.—

Then why was it that the fee was raised?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

For protection of cattle or crop and for scaring away easily wild animals small-barrel guns would do. There is no need for full-barrel guns.

Another Member.—

For shikars, will small-barrel guns be of any use?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

That is a different matter.

The Member.—

For killing tigers in some places, full-barrel guns are necessary.

Chief Secretary to Government.—

In such places, licences for full-barrel guns may be applied for.

The Member.—

But the Deputy Commissioners do not grant licences.

Chief Secretary to Government.—

In such cases, the parties might appeal to the higher authorities.

Mr. G. Kanchappa.—

With small-barrel guns, it is not possible to scare away tigers. They fall upon cattle and kill them.

Chief Secretary to Government.—

In such cases, they may be shot down even without licences. The Deputy Commissioners give permission in such cases. In many cases, permission has been given and animals have also been shot down.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

Have any confidential instructions been issued to local officers to the effect that applications for gun licences should be discouraged?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

No.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

Have the Government ordered that, as far as possible, all guns should be resumed?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

No. The only object of Government is to prevent poaching.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

Will all the raiyats be given licences to own small-barrel guns?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

No. It is not everybody that can handle guns.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

On what basis is the fitness or otherwise of a man to own a gun ascertained?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

The local officers are in a position to collect all the information necessary for taking a decision in each case.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

Is it education or status or personal character and antecedents that would be taken into consideration while granting the licence?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

It depends upon all those qualifications and also the need for owning a fire arm.

Mr. H. M. Channabasappa.—

Will the Government be pleased to instruct local officers that licences for guns for purposes of protection of person and property should be given liberally?

Chief Secretary to Government.—

That is being done already.

Question time over, MR. J. MAHOMED IMAM said that it was a well-known fact that the Bhadravati Iron Works were incurring losses year after year and that it was absolutely necessary and desirable to consider in what way the losses could be reduced. In that connection Messrs. Bhashyam Aiyangar and Byanna had tabled resolutions on the budget suggesting the installation of a steel plant at the Works. The member requested the President to permit the House to discuss them and place its views before the Government.

This request was allowed and Budget Resolution No. 5 was accordingly taken up.

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS—(*Concluded*).

Resolution No. 5.

MR. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that adequate provision be made in the Budget for 1934-35 under the main head '40 Iron Works,' just to enable the department to carry on with the 'Steel Industry' as, otherwise, it is impossible to make good the loss that the department has already sustained."

In doing so, he said that the Government had invested nearly 3½ crores of rupees on the Iron Works and were sustaining heavy losses year after year. The reason for this was not far to seek. In the initial stages of the Works the price of pig iron was Rs. 90 per ton, and the cost of its manufacture was at about the same level. Therefore, with a view to reduce expenditure, drastic retrenchments were effected and establish-